

Dart Estuary

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Dart Estuary near Dittisham, Paul Prestige

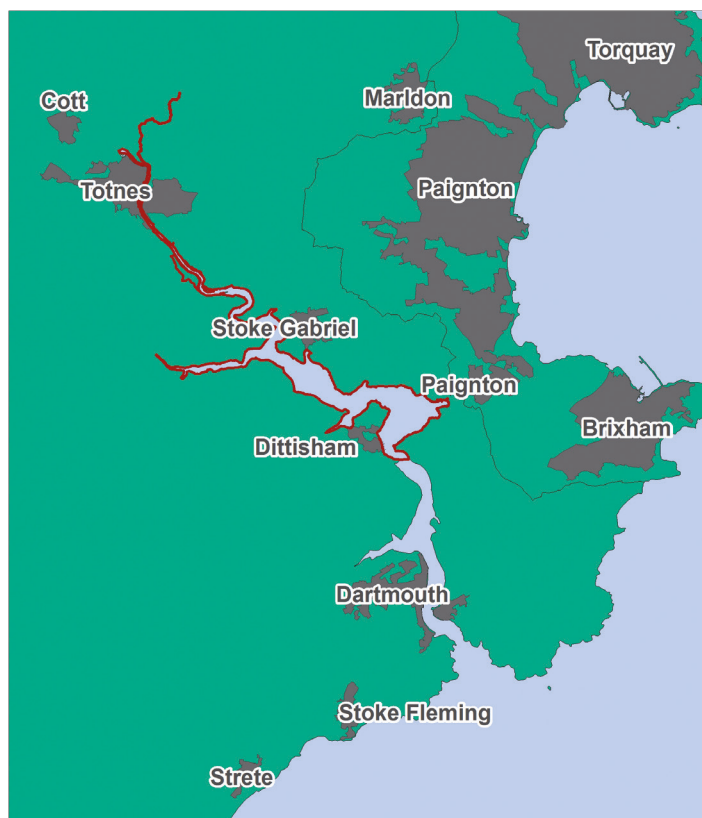
Fact file

The Dart Estuary is valuable for both wildlife and people. This estuary is an important habitat for the tentacled lagoon worm, which is only found at a handful of locations across the UK. Tentacled lagoon worms are particularly vulnerable to changes to their habitat therefore designation of this site would provide the worms with much needed protection.

Coastal saltmarshes, saline reedbeds and intertidal mudflats provide shelter and food for many species here, including large number of wading and migratory birds which feed on ragworms buried in the sediments. Young fish also take refuge in the estuary which acts as a nursery ground and both native species of seahorses have been spotted in this estuary.

This site fills an important role in the network, protecting rare estuarine rocky habitats, productive mud flats and saltmarshes, along with the charismatic species found here.

Location



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

 MCZ

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Marine Conservation Zones



Dart Estuary

4.7km²

Marine Conservation
Zone (MCZ)

Help us to protect our seas

UK seas have the potential to be some of the most wildlife rich on Earth, but ambitious protection is needed to reverse the decades of decline.

Great progress has been made in securing protected areas at sea but there's still work to be done.

With your help we can make sure that our Marine Conservation Zones and seas are given the protection they need to thrive once again!

- Join our supporters and become a Friend of MCZs today (it's free!)

wildlifetrusts.org/MCZFriends

- Find out more about other MCZs

wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs

- You can also send us any information or sightings from this MCZ to

marine@wildlifetrusts.org



The Wildlife Trusts

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"The designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones has given us an amazing opportunity to protect our marine wildlife and habitats for future generations. We now have 91 MCZs which is great news, but to help our seas recover we also need the Government to implement proper management and monitoring of these sites."

Joan Edwards
Director of Living Seas
& Public Affairs
The Wildlife Trusts